

DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901

Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education
The Cabinet Room

January 5, 2012
1:15 P.M.

Members Present: Michael Casson, Joanne Christian, Samtra Devard, Stephanie DeWitt, Marilyn Dollard, Karen Gordon, Cristy Greaves, David Kohan, Wendy Murray, Whitney Price, Jacqueline Wisnauskas, and Kathleen Thomas.

Members Absent: Chris Kenton, Jill Lewandowski, and Shelley Rouser.

Others Present: Charlie Michels; PSB Executive Director, Paula Fontello; Deputy Attorney General, Rebecca Taber; Deputy Chief of Staff, Christopher Ruszkowski; RTTT Acting Chief Officer TLEU, Donna Mitchell; RTTT Deputy Officer TLEU Professional Development, Michelle Kriss; Secretary to PSB, Donna Johnson; State Board of Education Executive Director, Deb Stevens; DSEA, and Wayne Barton; Director of the Office of Teacher & Administrator Quality Development.

I. Opening

Call to Order: Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to Order at 1:25 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ms. DeWitt and seconded by Ms. Wisnauskas to approve the January 5, 2012 Agenda. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of December 1, 2011: A motion was made by Dr. Greaves and seconded by Ms. Dollard to approve the PSB Minutes of December 1, 2011. The motion carried.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Michels said he has had conversations with Dr. Marion Wolak, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development and with Dr. Gregory Fulkerson, Education Associate for World Languages and International Education regarding World Language American Sign Language certification. The Board will be discussing this Agenda item later in the meeting.

- Mr. Michels referred the PSB to the January 1, 2012 PSB Quarterly Report in their folders. Delaware Code requires a PSB Report every 3 months. Mr. Michels hand delivered Reports to the State Board of Education, the Secretary of Education, and the Governor's office. He then sent them electronically to the members of the General Assembly, School Chiefs, and head of Charter Schools.
- Mr. Michels said that the following PSB members have terms that will expire at the end of June 2012: Dr. Greaves, Ms. Dollard, Ms. Wisnauskas, Ms. DeWitt, Ms. Gordon, Mr. Kohan, Ms. Murray, and Mr. Casson. A replacement for Ms. Lori Hudson will also be needed. He asked that these members begin thinking about their current and future obligations and whether or not they would like to continue to serve on the Board. Mr. Michels will have personal conversations with these members in the next month or so to determine which nominating organizations will need to be contacted and which slots need to be filled according to DE Code. Mr. Michels noted that he had received Ms. Hudson's resignation on December 6, 2011. He will be sending her the coveted PSB wooden engraved pen and pencil as a token thank you for the work she had done with the PSB and her commitment to Delaware educators and students.
- Mr. Michels said he received an announcement from Educational Testing Services several weeks ago stating that they are working on a Professional School Counselor Praxis II Multistate Standards Setting Study (MSSS). At present, this Praxis II test is not one that DE has approved. The DDOE Education Associate for School Counselors, Mr. Dennis Rozumalski, expressed his interest in the test. Mr. Michels inquired with the Department's Dr. Barton, Dr. Hodges and Dr. Rogers to see if there were any issues with sending people from Delaware. All agreed that as it was free to Delaware educators and provides a great professional development opportunity, there was no reason not to have DE educators participate. Mr. Michels then alerted ETS that Delaware would like to be a participant. This in no way obligates the PSB to approve the test.
- Mr. Michels said he will be attending the DOE Teacher and Administrator Quality Development quarterly meeting next week that Dr. Barton sponsors. As usual, he will give an update about the PSB.

IV. **DOE Report**

Ms. Thomas stated that the PSB will have a presentation today in place of the DOE Report. She introduced Dr. Susan Keene Haberstroh, DDOE Education Associate, Legislative Liaison and Regulation Review, Secretary of Education's office and Ms. Joanne Reihm, DDOE Education Associate, Accountability Resources, Teaching and Learning Branch. They gave a brief overview of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility waiver process that the DOE is working through. They passed a PowerPoint handout to the PSB members and said they are presenting at community meetings in all 3 counties and had made the same presentation at a recent State Board of Education meeting. Dr. Haberstroh noted that the ESEA has not been re-authorized and in September 2010, President Obama and the U.S. Secretary of Education invited states to apply for flexibility from certain requirements of this Act, which has also been known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The waivers are in response to aggressive, state-led reforms. Dr. Haberstroh spoke to why this is significant and what

requirements states must meet state to be allowed any flexibility. Ms. Reihm discussed the impact on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), both current and proposed, as well as the current classification and requirements of schools, districts and Delaware's current accountability system. Dr. Haberstroh said that this is an opportunity to look critically at Delaware's system and that the U.S. Department of Education is providing the opportunity for Delaware to have some flexibility in how we are supporting our schools and how we identify schools. Additional questions were answered expertly. Mr. Michels said he will send the PSB members a web link to this information as well as Dr. Haberstroh's and Ms. Reihm's contact information.

V. Action Items

A. 1598 Delaware Professional Development Standards

Mr. Michels noted that the PSB has had considerable conversation about professional development standards and reminded the Board that they adopted the National Staff Development Council (NSDC) Standards late last spring. The NSDC has morphed into Learning Forward. It was the PSB's consensus at the December 2011 meeting to proceed with a draft of an amended regulation to adopt the new Learning Forward Professional Learning Standards as the new Professional Development Standards for all Delaware educators. He referred the PSB to the most current draft of Regulation 1598 in their folders; Version 5 as of December 21, 2011. He noted that language within this regulation has been drafted to incorporate the reference to Learning Forward's complete document. Mr. Michels indicated that the Department supports the PSB in adopting the new standards. After minimal discussion, Ms. Thomas asked for motion to publish. A motion was made by Dr. Greaves and seconded by Ms. Dollard to publish **1598 Delaware Professional Development Standards** as amended. The motion carried.

B. 1505 Standard Certificate

Mr. Michels indicated that this regulation was approved for Publication by the PSB on October 6, 2011 and the State Board of Education concurred to publish during their November 17, 2011 meeting. He referred the PSB to a copy of written comments found in their folder that related to Regulation 1505. He noted that the written comments received from the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) were in essence duplicates. Mr. Michels reviewed the comments with the Board, indicating that grammatical edits had already been made by the Registrar of Regulations. Mr. Michels and Ms. Fontello spoke to the concern of a two word addition to the definition of 'immorality'. It was clarified that the definition of immorality is consistent with Delaware case law and is being amended for consistency to match the wording used in other PSB and DOE regulations. The Councils also noted that the amended regulation narrows eligibility to a degree. It was noted that the narrowing was intentional and this was a purposeful change. After discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Christian and seconded by Mr. Kohan to approve **1505 Standard Certificate** for Final Approval. The motion carried.

C. 1506 Emergency Certificate

Mr. Michels said this regulation was approved by the PSB on October 6, 2011 and the State Board of Education concurred to publish during their November 17, 2011 meeting.

He referred the PSB to the handouts in their folders that related to Regulation 1506 including a “Change Sheet” that showed suggested language changes. Although the changes appeared to be voluminous, they were actually minimal in that the page suggests using the term “Employing Authority” in place of “District Authority” for the purpose of consistent use of the terms between regulations. Mr. Michels also clarified that current amendments reducing the length of an emergency certificate from three years to one year will not impact the Skilled and Technical Sciences or ARTC educators, as DE Code allows additional time. The Board concluded that the changes were not substantive in nature. He noted that the written comments received from the Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) were in essence duplicates. The Councils suggested extending the expiration date from June 30 to minimize possible interruptions in instruction in year round programs. After considering the comment and seeking more information from the year round programs, it was determined that extending the expiration date to August 30 as suggested would be problematic, as the next school year would have started which may result in more unintended interruptions. In addition, it was confirmed that most all educator contracts run through the end of June, thus making June 30 the rationale expiration date. By implementing the June 30 expiration date district and charter school personnel offices are able to coordinate emergency certificates with an educator’s employment status and should promote consistency in instruction. It was noted by the Councils that the amended regulation does establish a new approach to Emergency Certificates by shortening the duration and requiring educator diligence in completing a Standard Certificate’s requirements in a timely fashion. After considerable research and reviewing data, the Board affirmed that this was a purposeful focus of amendments made to the regulation. The PSB and SBE examined the history and use of the emergency certificates. These amendments were purposeful based on the information examined and are specifically intended to narrow the circumstances and duration of emergency certificates. After some additional discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Greaves and seconded by Ms. Gordon to approve *1506 Emergency Certificate* with the non-substantive changes to the terms for Final Approval. The motion carried.

D. American Sign Language Certification Programs

Mr. Michels said the PSB has had some brief discussion about ASL Certification Programs. He reminded the Board that the General Assembly approved American Sign Language as a world language eligible for a student to use for high school world language credit required for graduation. The Board in added some language in the World Language Regulation less than a year ago so that applicants for an ASL endorsements might be certified in one of two additional ways: (1) 15 hours of coursework or professional development in the area of that World Language as approved by the LEA and the Department of Education, or (2) to receive certification in a program approved by the PSB and the State Board of Education. Mr. Michels has worked with Dr. Gregory Fulkerson, Education Associate for World Languages and International Education regarding American Sign Language (ASL) certification programs that would allow more opportunities for World Language educator applicants to attain the ASL endorsement in a timely fashion. Upon approval, these programs could then be used to meet certification criteria for the ASL endorsement for the World Language Standard Certificate. Mr.

Michels referred the PSB to the handout in their folders showing three potential paths. It was noted that currently there is no content knowledge test applicable and available for ASL. Upon further review by the Board and Ms. Fontello, it was determined that the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) appears to be a test of content knowledge and not a certification program and therefore approving the SLPI may have significant consequences relative to the testing hierarchy set out within the regulation. Ms. Fontello reviewed the standing regulation and advised of the impact of adopting a test of content knowledge and confirmed that based on the current language of the regulation the other options are only available until a test of content knowledge is applicable and available. Based on the concerns discussed, the Board did not take any action on the item and Mr. Michels stated he will continue to work on this item with Dr. Fulkerson and bring this item back to the Board at a future meeting for consideration of approvals.

VI. Discussion

A. 1597 Delaware Professional Teaching Standards

Mr. Michels said the PSB has been looking at the new InTASC standards that are significant in length. He referred the PSB to the handouts in their folders pertaining to the recently amended page 1 of Regulation 1597 that clearly references the entire InTASC document. The considerably more abbreviated draft of this regulation, compared with the previous iteration, was before the Board for discussion and feedback. After minimal discussion, the Board requested of Mr. Michels to continue his work and anticipates the regulation to be before the Board for a vote to Publish in the near future.

B. 1570 Early Childhood Special Education Teacher

Mr. Michels said this regulation has not been reviewed for over 5 years. Mr. Michels' presented initial amended draft reflects needed reformatting to mirror current Standard Certificates. He has discussed components of this regulation with the educators who attended the ETS multi-state standard setting studies for this Praxis II test, in addition to DOE experts. The essential question is: If the PSB were to approve the relevant Praxis II, would it still be appropriate to require the course count if educator applicants have not graduated from an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher Preparation Program? All parties agreed the coursework needs to be completed to provide necessary content and knowledge, and that passing the test alone is not enough. Mr. Michels will have a conversation with the DOE Directors of Early Development and Learning Resources, and Exceptional Children/Special Education regarding the proposed Inclusion Credential. Mr. Michels will also discuss this regulation with other DDOE staff and bring back more information to the Board at a future meeting.

VII. Presentation

A. The DOE Presentation was given in place of the DOE Report.

VIII. PSB Standing Committees

A. Licensure and Certification Criteria

The Committee had not met.

B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation

The Committee had not met.

IX. Other

None.

X. Public Comment

None.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Kohan and seconded by Ms. Devard to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.